

SUSTAINABLE CITIES NEWS & UPDATES

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Green Eggs and Ham

Since 1987, the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center](#) has presented the Governor's awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.

This year, in addition to the aforementioned, the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact Awards will also be presented. These awards being held at the McDonald's Conference Center on Friday, November 9th, 2012 will recognize public and private universities and colleges that have

fulfilled the [Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact](#)

Put forth by the Governor's [Green Governments Coordinating Council](#), the Compact outlines environmental goals including objectives such as purchasing renewable energy, implementing green building practices, developing sustainable transportation options, improving water conservation, and incorporating sustainable dining practices.

As a university or college makes progress on it's sustainability goals, the campus can apply for recognition when they have achieved bronze,

silver, and/or gold levels. Congratulations to [these schools](#) who will be awarded for fulfilling their commitment and implementing sustainable practices on their campuses!

More information about the Illinois Campus Sustainability Awards can be found [here](#).

For more information, about the University/ College Compact or the Governor's Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit [green.illinois.gov](#).

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Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please email Mavara.Agha@Illinois.gov. For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit [Green.illinois.gov](#)



"We are strengthening laws to protect bicyclists and increasing safety education opportunities to help ensure that everyone is safe on Illinois' roads"

- Governor Quinn on bicycle safety in Illinois

State of Illinois Releases Bicycling Resources

On October 9th, 2012, the State of Illinois launched more bicycling resources to encourage safer and responsible bicycling state-wide. The State is committed to sustainable, integrated multi-modal transportation and believes that non-motorized transportation initiatives are a critical element of this mission. Recognizing that sustainable transportation requires a broad-based collaboration between stakeholders in government, education, non-profits, and private industry, the State seeks to develop bicycle policies that promote safe, sustainable, and fiscally responsible bicycling in Illinois.

Located within the site's "Sustainable Transportation" section, the guide provides the public with comprehensive information on bicycling in Illinois. Visitors can learn about bicycling laws, agency implementation efforts, the State's Share the Road safety campaign, and bicycling events. The site also aggregates bicycle contacts to facilitate communication between bicycle stakeholders. Send website comments or suggestions to [Mavara Agha](#).



On July 5, 2010, Governor Quinn signed a bill into law that keeps bicyclists safer on Illinois roads by making it illegal for automobile drivers to crowd bikers. Governor Quinn also signed legislation that created a specialty license plate to educate the public about sharing the road with cyclists.

Illinois Wins Energy Efficiency Grant

On September 13th, 2012, Illinois was one of four states chosen by the National Governors Association (NGA) for a prestigious “Best Practices Policy Academy” grant to boost industrial productivity through use of energy efficiency and Combined Heat and Power (CHP).

The bipartisan NGA said Illinois earned the award due to its, “... approach to advancing industrial energy efficiency by engaging a wide range of stakeholders across the state to develop solutions linked to the state’s energy efficiency goals.”

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is an efficient and clean approach to on-site power generation. Under conventional CHP, fuel is burned in a “prime mover” such as a gas turbine, with the waste heat “recycled” to provide heating, cooling and/or dehumidification. Under “Waste Energy Recovery” (WER), the fuel is burned in a furnace or boiler to provide heat to an industrial process, with excess heat “recycled” to generate electricity on-site.



The National Governors Association (NGA)—the bipartisan organization of the nation’s governors—promotes visionary state leadership, shares best practices and speaks with a collective voice on national policy.

*“Industry is part of
Illinois’ heritage, from
the stockyards and
blast furnaces of our
parents’ generation
to the high tech
corridors of today,”
Governor Quinn*



Spotlight: Electric Vehicle Forum

The Electric Vehicle Forum series, put on by the [American Lung Association](#), is designed to educate various stakeholders and the general



public of the interplay between national research laboratories, private vehicle companies, state government, electricians, and charging station developers in the development of an electric vehicle infrastructure. Participants will gather to discuss, educate and learn about potential opportunities and obstacles relating to the use of electric vehicles in Illinois. Presenters from different areas throughout the industry will be on hand to share their insights and to answer questions from the audience. Topic areas will include basic electric vehicle terminology and information, recharging options, incentives for today and the future, environmental & health impacts, and local pilot projects. Municipal entities, private groups, fleet owners, car dealerships, car rental companies, and the general public are encouraged to attend.

The two upcoming forums are :

- October 19, Illinois Central College, Peoria, IL
- October 23, Hotel and Conference Center, Champaign, IL

For further details, please click [here](#).



Spotlight: Rain Barrel Design Competition

The [Illinois Department of Transportation](#) (IDOT) launched its [2012 Rain Barrel Design Competition](#) to educate students on storm water management and to highlight the positive impact of green initiatives. The competition, now in its third year, offers eligible students the chance to win a rain barrel based on creative artwork submitted through participating schools across the state.

“The popularity of the rain barrel design competition has soared, and with its continuation, has engaged students statewide to better understand how vital sustainability practices are for the environment, our communities and residents’ overall quality of life,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. “We are proud to offer the design competition again this year, and encourage all interested students to participate and display their artistic abilities.”

During the current fall semester, IDOT is teaming with the Illinois Correction Industries to make the Rain Barrel Design Competition possible for the third consecutive year. Students ranging from 3rd to 12th grades will have the opportunity to submit an artistic design that could be painted onto a rainbarrel. Optimal designs depict impressions of nature, Earth Day, or reflect IDOT’s vision of sustainability. Designs must be submitted to IDOT by Oct. 29, 2012. In November, 50 designs will be selected as winners and those schools will each receive a rainbarrel.

Jobs, Internships, and Opportunities

Kubert Public Interest Sustainable Business Intern

The Environmental Law and Policy Center (“ELPC”) seeks to hire two M.B.A. students for Sustainable Business Intern positions in our Chicago office starting in January 2013 and June 2013.

The full-time Sustainable Business interns will work with ELPC multidisciplinary project teams of senior attorney, public policy and scientist professionals on sustainability projects developing clean renewable energy and energy efficiency, advancing innovative transportation strategies and preserving vital natural resources. One of ELPC’s core principles is that job creation, economic growth and environmental progress can be achieved together through smart public policies and sustainability initiatives. Click [here](#) for more information.

Metropolitan Planning Council Research Assistant

MPC is currently seeking research assistant candidates with proven abilities in GIS-based geospatial analysis and/or statistical analysis, as well as economics, engineering or legal backgrounds. It is expected that these candidates will work primarily on MPC's water resources, Community Building Initiative, and Bus Rapid Transit projects.

MPC is also currently seeking research assistant candidates with a strong interest in communications, social media, web content development, audio and video production, and design. Click [here](#) for more information.

CNT Water – Program Coordinator

CNT Water’s Program Coordinator will play a pivotal role in this new initiative by implementing the Chicago Sustainable Backyards Program, and assisting the development of Wetropfit. The ideal candidate is an effective organizer with exceptional attention to detail, clear ability to empathize and engage with residents and professionals alike, and the aptitude to coordinate a customer-oriented education and rebate program. The preferred candidate is English/Spanish bilingual.

Responsibilities include: Conduct a swift and effective rebate program, including delivery of an exceptional customer experience. develop and maintain strong working relationships internally and externally with key stakeholders, including but not limited to residents, business owners, and agency partners, and design and implement engaging customer communications and education materials. For more information, please click [here](#).

Sustainable Grants

1) Lexus Eco Challenge I – Land/Water

Deadline: October 29, 2012

A program of automaker Lexus and children's publishing company Scholastic, the Lexus Eco Challenge is an educational program and contest designed to inspire and empower middle and high school students in the United States to learn about the environment and take action to improve it. In its sixth year, the program will award a total of \$500,000 in grants and scholarships. The competition is open to students in grades 6-12 who are either registered and home-schooled or enrolled in a public or accredited private school, and who are legal residents of the U.S. or the District of Columbia. Click [here](#) for more information.

2) Subaru Healthy Sprouts Award

Deadline: October 31, 2012

A program of the National Gardening Association, the Subaru Healthy Sprouts Award recognizes and supports youth gardening programs focused on teaching about the environment, nutrition, and hunger issues in the United States. The winning programs will provide youth with the skills necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle compatible with environmental stewardship and an understanding of how their actions can positively impact the well-being of their community. To be eligible, a school or organization must plan to garden in 2012 with at least fifteen children between the ages of 3 and 18. For more information, please click [here](#).



3) Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb: Community Garden Grants and Makeovers

Deadline: December 15, 2012

To help communities achieve their neighborhood beautification goals and support healthy, sustainable food sources, nonprofit organizations in the United States and Canada are invited to apply for ten grants of \$5,000 and a complete garden makeover.. For more information, click [here](#).

4) Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rebate Program

Deadline: December 20, 2012.

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is providing rebates toward the installation of Level II charging stations. Rebates cover 50% of equipment and installation (materials and labor) costs up to the following caps: \$3,750 per networked single station; \$3,000 per non-networked single station; \$7,500 per networked dual station; and \$6,000 per non-networked dual station. The maximum possible total rebate award is \$49,000 or 50% of the total project cost for up to 15 stations, whichever is less. Click [here](#) for more information.

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GreenTown Highland Park

October 19, 2012

Art Center Downtown Highland Park

Now is the time to create a healthy, sustainable community. Join the City of Highland Park for a week-long experience designed to promote sustainability in Highland Park and beyond. Starting on Wednesday, October 17 with a film festival and culminating in a conference called GreenTown: The Future of Community, community members and business owners can engage to learn, create a dialogue and develop actionable ways to promote healthy living, walking and biking, downtown development, arts and culture, waste reduction and more.

On October 18, GreenTown will host two pre-conference workshops:

- Waste Not: Advancing Commercial Food Scrap Collection in the Chicago Area
- Back Yard or Back 40: Creating Sustainable Landscapes (Presented by MELA)

GreenTown will take place October 19 at the Art Center of Highland Park.

The zero waste, carbon neutral event will assemble 250-plus community leaders from Highland Park, the North Shore and the Chicago metro area. Combining a format of major speakers, networking events and hands-on workshops, GreenTown provides ample opportunity to learn, connect and foster change.

Register today at greentownconference.com



Spotlight: DCEO Trade Ally Show

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's State Energy Office invites you to attend the DCEO Trade Ally Trade Show. The event focuses on connecting trade ally partners with public sector clients to produce cost effective energy efficiency investments. The main goal of this event is to save your facility money through energy efficiency projects by providing you with the latest offerings from the Illinois Energy Now Program, and to meet potential contractors and suppliers to assist you in planning and implementing your projects.



The show is taking place on Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM CST Crowne Plaza Hotel Springfield (3000 S Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield, IL 62703). It is open to all public sector officials, administrators and/or building managers interested in improving the energy efficiency of their facilities. Public school and community college officials, park district personnel, and municipal leaders are especially welcome.



Spotlight: IEPA Public Hearings

As development of land increases, run-off carrying pollutants increases. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is seeking guidance for stormwater runoff standard recommendations in post-development landscapes in Illinois that will be a surrogate for water quality improvement through the management of stormwater. The rationale is as stormwater is retained, evaporated, or infiltrated it holds contaminants back to settle out and reduces the flashiness of receiving water bodies resulting in less soil erosion, sedimentation, and pollutants which improves water quality.

A new Work Group is spearheading the initiative to recommend a performance standard or set of standards to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency from which implementable performance stormwater standards can be adopted to improve water quality in waters of Illinois. If you are interested in learning more, please review the most current draft [Draft Framework for Stormwater Performance Recommendations](#) and submit your comments.

There will also be two public hearings where Work Group recommendations will be presented and time for public comments will be allotted. These hearings are scheduled for October 18 in Springfield, IL & October 23 in Aurora, IL from 1pm-4pm. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Caught Green-Handed

Jen Aholt

Department of Corrections

In this edition of “Caught Green-Handed” we honor **Jen Aholt**, from the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Colleague **Patrick Grubbs**, Southern IL ATC ‘s Sustainability Coordinator, nominated Ms. Aholt for this recognition for her tireless efforts in sustainability across the state’s institutions.

Jen has brought together most if not all the institutions in the Illinois Department of Corrections to recycle and reuse the materials that the facilities use on a daily basis. The amount of recyclables, gardens, compost, fuel and electrical equipment that has been affected is too vast amount to keep track of when all 36 prisons come together. She has changed the outcome of IDOC and has changed the thoughts and behavior of many staff members. She is truly a leader among staff.

In recent months, Jen has worked hard to develop a comprehensive reporting strategy for the Governor’s Green Governments Coordinating Council’s Annual

Report. Not only has she encouraged individual correctional facilities to submit reports, but she has spent countless hours consolidating data from all state facilities into a in-depth submission that outlines a range of efforts. In this way, Jen has pioneered the way for a long-term and sustainable reporting strategy that will eventually lead to improved sustainability efforts at the State level.

Jen Aholt — you have officially been caught green handed! Thank you for all that you have done. You are an inspiration to your community and to your state.



Fresh Potpourri

- 1) **Waste Not: Advancing Commercial Food Scrap Collection in Chicago**
October 18th, 2012, 1:00—5:00 PM
Highland Park Art Center, Highland Park, IL

How do we increase commercial food scrap collection in the Chicago area! Join us for an afternoon workshop to discuss barriers and solutions across four counties and associated waste management agencies in Cook, Northern Cook, Dupage, Kane, and Lake Counties. The event will review best practices in the Chicago area and beyond and discuss such issues as route density, training, equipment, contracts, and ways to increase food scrap composting. Click [here](#) to register.

- 2) **Second Annual Food Day**
October 18th, 2012
Daley Plaza's Farmer's Market, Chicago, IL

Annual Food Day is a national movement facilitated by the Center for Science and Public Interest (CSPI) to encourage and celebrate affordable, healthy, and sustainable food. A collaborative event will be held October 18th at the Daley Plaza Farmer's Market that will include different informational booths centered around Second Annual Food Day as well as food tastings, local foods and goods for purchase, and fun activities. There are opportunities to participate in this downtown Chicago event! Learn more [here](#).

- 3) **Chicagoland Campus Sustainability Day Online Regional Discussion Panel**
October 23rd, 2012, 2:00 PM

This discussion will feature a panel addressing:

- What are colleges and universities in the Chicago region doing to prepare students for a changing climate?
- Where do challenges still exist for campuses in creating successful sustainability and climate programs, and what are the solutions to these challenges?
- How can campuses ensure that all students acquire the skills and education necessary to prepare for a changing climate, society, and economy, regardless of the course of study or career goals?

Click [here](#) for more information.

- 4) **Archeworks Wastestreams Film Salon**
November 12th, 2012, 6:00-9:00 PM
Gensler, 11 E Madison, Suite 300, Chicago, IL

In the spirit of community cinema, this monthly Salon will feature a full length film or a series of shorter films on wastestreams and will be followed by participatory discussion. The Salon seeks to make visible humans' on-going collaborative project called 'waste' and invite the audience to revision our 'wastestreams' and reengage our collective resources. The Salon is hosted by Nance Klehm, a nationally known systems designer, horticulturalist and bio-instigator. Four film salons will be held monthly on Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00 pm. Sept 24, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 10, 2012. Admission fee is \$10 per event. For more information and to download registration forms please click [here](#).





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This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, www.green.illinois.gov.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email Mavara.agha@illinois.gov



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Check out the State of Illinois's new [Bicycling Resources](#) launched on October 9th, 2012.